

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

CARLTON L. REID,

Plaintiff,

v.

JASON BARBA,

Defendant.

Case No. 1:22-cv-00344-KES-HBK (PC)

ORDER REFERRING CASE TO EARLY
ADR AND STAY OF CASE

DEADLINE TO OPT OUT DUE BY:

OCTOBER 31, 2025

Plaintiff Carlton L. Reid, is a state prisoner proceeding pro se and *in forma pauperis* on his First Amendment Complaint brought pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. (Doc. No. 8). As set forth in the Court's January 3, 2024 Screening Order, Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint stated only a cognizable First Amendment right to access of court claim in connection with Plaintiff's state court habeas corpus petition against Defendant Jason Barba. (Doc. Nos. 9, 16). On July 7, 2025, Defendant filed a notice of waiver of service. (Doc. No. 22).

The Court refers all civil rights cases filed by pro se individuals to early Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) to try to resolve such cases more expeditiously and less expensively. *See also* Local Rule 270. In appropriate cases, defense counsel from the California Attorney General's Office have agreed to participate in early ADR. No claims, defenses, or objections are waived by the parties' participation.

1 Attempting to resolve this matter early through settlement now would save the parties the
2 time and expense of engaging in lengthy and costly discovery and preparing substantive
3 dispositive motions. The Court therefore will STAY this action for 90 DAYS to allow the parties
4 an opportunity to investigate Plaintiff's claims, meet and confer, and engage in settlement
5 discussions, or agree to participate in an early settlement conference conducted by a magistrate
6 judge. If after investigating Plaintiff's claims and meeting and conferring, either party finds that a
7 settlement conference would be a waste of resources, the party may opt out of the early settlement
8 conference.

9 Accordingly, it is **ORDERED**:

10 1. This action will remain **STAYED until further order** to allow the parties an
11 opportunity to settle their dispute. *Defendant may, but is not required, to file a response to the*
12 *operative complaint during the stay but the parties may not file other pleadings or motions*
13 *during the stay period.* Further, the parties shall not engage in formal discovery until the Court
14 issues a Scheduling and Discovery Order.

15 2. **Within 90 days** from the date on this Order, or no later than October 31, 2025, the
16 parties shall file a notice if they object to proceeding to an early settlement conference or if they
17 believe that settlement is not currently achievable.

18 3. If neither party has opted out of settlement by the expiration of the objection
19 period, the Court will assign this matter by separate Order to a United States Magistrate Judge,
20 other than the undersigned, for conducting the settlement conference.

21 4. If the parties reach a settlement prior to the settlement conference, they SHALL
22 file a Notice of Settlement as required by Local Rule 160.

23
24 Dated: July 31, 2025


HELENA M. BARCH-KUCHTA
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE